

# BOOK REVIEWS

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**ALCOHOL & ALCOHOLISM**—Papers Presented at the International Symposium in Memory of E. M. Jellinek, Santiago, Chile—Edited by Robert E. Popham. Published for the Addiction Research Foundation by University of Toronto Press, Toronto 181, Ontario, 1970. 421 pages, \$15.00.

In August, 1966 an international symposium on alcohol and alcoholism was held in Santiago, Chile, as a memorial to the late Dr. E. M. Jellinek, recognized as one of the leading authorities in the field of alcoholism. Now, four years later, Robert E. Popham and the Addiction Research Foundation have selected for publication 50 of the most important papers presented at that symposium. They hoped to prepare a medical text on alcohol and alcoholism suitable for those students and physicians interested in research, treatment, education and program development. Unfortunately the text falls far short of its goals and can not be considered the up to date, definite text in this important field.

The text does have certain areas of merit. The tributes to Dr. Jellinek give added perspective to the alcoholism problem. The multi-authored sections give needed depth to many important specialized research areas. It is especially interesting to read the translated papers of Central and South American specialists who participated in the symposium, since they rarely publish in standard English journals. Unfortunately, the presentation of papers is often unsuitable for teaching and at times becomes too specialized for the average reader. The papers presented on the metabolism of alcohol at high altitudes, the biochemical studies of the "anti-alcohol drug" (metronidazole), important genetic factors in alcoholism and epidemiological study of alcoholism in Latin America, are especially informative and interesting. However, the major drawbacks of the text are that the research format presentation has not been uniformly edited and the authors have attempted to update this 1966 conference simply by adding minor footnotes to key topics.

Critical advances in this field over the past four years are covered only in passing or added as brief footnotes to longer sections. Recent topics that deserved more discussion include the effect of alcohol on the metabolism of other drugs, alcohol effect on intestinal absorption and function, possible important biochemical parameters of alcohol addiction, the physiological bases for alcohol withdrawal, sleep disturbances in alcoholism, adrenal pituitary responses to alcohol, newer drug treatment of the alcohol withdrawal syndrome and the important development of animal models for alcohol withdrawal. Especially lacking to the clinician who is interested in alcoholism is the absence of a presentation of the effects of alcohol on carbohydrate metabolism. Thus, although the text may be valuable to a limited audience, it does not achieve the desired scope this topic deserves.

CHARLES E. BECKER, M.D.

**ANTIMICROBIAL THERAPY**—Benjamin M. Kagan, M.D., F.A.A.P., F.A.C.P., Director, Department of Pediatrics, Consultant, Department of Medicine, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center; Professor of Pediatrics, University of California, Los Angeles; with Contributions by 46 Authorities. W. B. Saunders Company, West Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19105), 1970. 500 pages, \$14.50.

Every few years the *Pediatric Clinics of North America* issues a volume in which antimicrobial therapy is discussed. Such volumes appeared in 1956, 1961 and 1968. The authors of individual chapters in the 1968 volume were asked in 1969 to bring their presentations up to date so that they could be compiled as a separate independent volume on antimicrobial therapy, under the editorship of Dr. B. Kagan of Los Angeles. The first half of the present book thus is an updated version of the 1968 *Pediatric Clinics* volume and the changes in the discussion of individual drugs are relatively minor. In the second half of the book "clinical applications" are discussed. Ten sections have been added here, dealing with antimicrobial agents in orthopedics, in burns, in trauma, in ophthalmology, in dermatology and in other specialized infection problems. Thus the present, 1970 version is a reasonably complete and fairly up-to-date reference book for antimicrobial therapy listing the preferences and prejudices of each author. There is some emphasis on the use of antimicrobial drugs in infants and children and a useful chapter on dosage is appended. Inevitably there is some repetition (e.g. of side effects of drugs) and some discrepancies in recommended uses can be noted. Inevitably also, the life span of specific listed recommendations will be short as microorganisms change in their resistance patterns and new drugs arrive on the market.

In spite of these limitations the book appears to be a useful reference work which can help physicians in selecting antimicrobial drugs for specific indications and in guarding patients against some untoward effects—at least in 1970.

ERNEST JAWETZ, M.D.

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**FROZEN BLOOD**—A Review of the Literature 1949-1968—Arthur R. Turner, M.D. Gordon and Breach, Science Publishers, Inc., 150 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10011), 206 pages; \$19.50 for Reference, prepaid \$15.60; \$10.00 for Professional, prepaid \$8.00.

Readers looking for a well-organized, informative, authoritative summary of the current state of the art of freezing red cells will not find it here. This book tells who said what, when, where—each paper summarized in a sentence or two. Equal attention is given to articles old and new, whether they summarize years of experience or are a Master's thesis. An attempt is made to arrange the material in logical headings; however, as recognized by the compiler, the complex interrelationship of the many variables which affect the red cells inevitably leads to confu-

sion. Within each section the discussion cannot follow a consistent direction since one paper at a time is summarized.

This book may be of some use to a beginning investigator in the field, in that it provides a list of publications which includes those he will want to read.

HERBERT A. PERKINS, M.D.

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**MEDICAL READINGS ON DRUG ABUSE**—Oliver E. Byrd, Stanford University. Addison-Wesley Publishing Company, Inc., Reading, Mass. (01867), 1970. 274 pages, \$3.95.

Dr. Byrd's latest book is, in essence, a small library of condensed articles covering a wide spectrum of published papers relating to the abuse and use of dangerous drugs. This indexed work consists of some 180 contributions to current medical literature. It covers subjects ranging from the affects of the drugs per se to reviews of official stands of various medical groups on specific drugs and/or the drug problem in general.

This is not a permissive book; in fact those seeking material to justify improper use of drugs whether tobacco, alcohol, marijuana or barbiturates, opiates or stimulants will be disappointed. Those seeking conservative material pertinent to the current drug abuse scene, however, will find this paperback a welcome addition to their library.

EDWARD R. BLOOMQUIST, M.D.

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**A GUIDE TO DERMATOHISTOPATHOLOGY**—Herman Pinkus, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Dermatology and Syphilology, Associate, Department of Pathology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; Senior Attending Dermatologist, Detroit General Hospital; Chief, Dermatology Section, Veterans Administration Hospital, Allen Park, Michigan; and Amir H. Mehregan, M.D., Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Dermatology and Syphilology, Associate, Department of Pathology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan; Senior Associate Dermatologist, Detroit General Hospital. Appleton-Century-Crofts, Division of Meredith Publishing Company, 440 Park Avenue South, New York, N.Y. (10016), 1969. 546 pages, \$20.00.

The new text *A Guide to Dermatohistopathology* by Pinkus and Mehregan is the first guide to skin pathology that is easily readable. It is a welcome addition to both dermatologist and pathologist due to its clarity of explanation.

Pinkus and Mehregan discuss basic normal anatomy, techniques of pathology and methods of organizing observations under the microscope. These authors then proceed through inflammatory, granulomatous, metabolic, connective tissue, pigmentary diseases and then tumors. Each individual tumor and disease process is discussed simply and with reference to the 403 photomicrographs and charts.

The section on granulomas is divided into predominately mononuclear and mixed cell granulomas, a classification that allows easy categorization. The tumor section is well illustrated and the differences between appendageal tumors are easily seen. Many of the descriptions are delightful to read especially on differentiation of lichen planus and lupus erythematosus and the section on artefacts seen in tissue.

This book is a gem in the wealth of knowledge on the interpretation of pathology of the skin.

LEO INDIANER, M.D.

**TECHNIQUES IN CLINICAL PHYSIOLOGY—A Survey of Measurements in Anesthesiology**—Edited by J. Weldon Bellville, M.D., Professor of Anesthesia, Stanford University School of Medicine; and Charles S. Weaver, Ph.D., Research Engineer, Stanford Electronics Laboratories; Research Associate, Department of Anesthesia, Stanford University School of Medicine. The Macmillan Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10022), 1969. 532 pages, \$20.00.

With the numerous tools and techniques now available for physiologic measurements, the clinician or researcher may puzzle over which is best for his particular task. Planning to monitor breath-to-breath inspired oxygen concentration in a halothane-oxygen mixture, it would be well to know that monitors using either thermo-conductivity or the fuel cell principle are totally inappropriate. The former is inappropriate because of the slow response time, and the latter because of the halothane induced measuring error.

Bellville and Weaver have edited a book which will help answer this kind of question. The book is diverse in its coverage with contributions from physicians, engineers, mathematicians and chemists. The cohesive bond between the men is that nearly all have worked in or with the Department of Anesthesia at Stanford University. Because of the diversity in the contributors' disciplines, the emphasis found in individual chapters varies. Some have stressed the monitoring of physiologic systems while others emphasized specific tools. Some shied away from mathematics in their presentation while others liberally sprinkled their dissertations with formulas. For me, an anesthesiologist, the chapters relating to cardiac function evaluation, gas and blood gas analysis, and gas chromatography were the most useful. Other readers may equally well appreciate chapters on basic electronics, computers or radioisotope techniques. The authors have added short comments to most of their references enabling the reader to determine, at a glance, whether a particular reference is of value to him. I believe the book contains valuable material, not only for the researcher and clinician, but also for the resident in anesthesia who would like a more in-depth discourse in the tools and techniques of his science.

LEONARD F. WALTERS, M.D.

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**ABORTION: LAW, CHOICE AND MORALITY**—Daniel Callahan. The Macmillan Company, 866 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. (10022), 1970. 524 pages, \$14.95

This is essentially a textbook on the enormous worldwide problem of abortion. It has an extensive bibliography, and supplies a mass of data. Dr. Callahan (Ph.D.) focuses on the moral problems of abortions, integrated with the medical, social and legal questions. He stresses the diversity of values in a pluralistic society, and the influence of personal bias on each individual's attitude. All abortion decisions will be influenced by one's personal morality.

I must agree with Dr. Alan Guttmacher that this book is a must for all concerned with a humane solution of the abortion problem. I hope the California Medical Association will make this available to all of our legislators.

GEORGE K. HERZOG, JR., M.D.